

# stimulus news DIGEST

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## Recovery Project News

**\$1.2 Million to Fight Poverty Locally:** Eight nonprofits serving the region will share \$1.2 million in federal stimulus funds over the next two years. The money's mission is to make a dent in the number of people slipping into homelessness and get those who have already lost their homes back on track. Placer County's unemployment rate is hovering at 11.3 percent, and organizations say they're seeing more middle-class residents turn to them for help with things like utility-bill assistance. Roseville-based KidsFirst, for instance, served more than 12,000 clients so far this year, double the number it planned for. Groups receiving funds include KidsFirst, the Salvation Army of Auburn, Sierra Foothills AIDS Foundation, Legal Services of Northern California, Roseville HomeStart, the Lazarus Project, the Lincoln Lighthouse and the North Tahoe Family Resource Center. (*"\$1.2 Million to Fight Poverty Locally," Auburn Journal, 10/26/09*)

**Stimulus Money Helps City: \$2.5 Million to Aid Sewer and Verbena Fields Projects:** Two city of Chico water quality improvement projects will benefit from federal stimulus funding, with the city expected to receive more than \$2.5 million. Approximately \$2 million will be allocated to the city by the State Water Board to help fund the replacement of the city's sewer outfall near the mouth of Big Chico Creek. An additional \$523,515 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has been designated for wetland and riparian restoration at Verbena Fields. Both projects have been in the works for some time, but state funding for construction at Verbena Fields was frozen earlier this year. (*"Stimulus Money Helps City: \$2.5 Million to Aid Sewer and Verbena Fields Projects," Chico Enterprise Record, 10/26/09*)

**Thousands of Education-Related Jobs Restored in California:** More than 60,000 of the 250,000 education jobs saved nationally by President Barack Obama's stimulus package were in California, according to data released this week by the California Department of Education. The \$4.9 billion in education funding that California received under the \$787 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act partially offset deep cuts to classrooms that were made by politicians in Sacramento. Rather than resulting in new teachers being hired, the stimulus package caused fewer teachers to be laid off. (*"Thousands of Education-Related Jobs Restored in California," San Diego News Network, 10/26/09*)

**Obama Administration to Fund CA Biofuel Research:** The Department of Energy today released a list of awardees to receive stimulus funds for research on energy. 37 projects around the country were chosen because of their potential to "change the way we use and produce energy," the department said. Seven of those projects are in the state, two in Southern California. The biggest local award went to Ceres, Inc. in Thousand Oaks. Nearly \$5 million is going towards the project. \$760,705 will also go to University of California, Riverside for research that will hopefully lead to the reduced cost of fuel cells so they can be used more widespread. (*"Obama Administration to Fund Local Biofuel Research," LAist, 10/26/09*)

**Bay Area Snags 10% of Clean Energy Stimulus:** The Bay Area claimed a sizable share of the \$151 million in federal funding for transformational energy research projects announced Monday by the U.S. Department of Energy, with five organizations receiving a collective \$15.1 million. Stanford University alone will get nearly \$5 million. This is the first round of projects funded through the recently formed Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, which was allotted \$400 million under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. (*"Bay Area Snags 10% of Clean Energy Stimulus," Seattle PI, 10/26/09*)

#### **Students at Desert College Learning to Work in Green**

**Industry:** The College of the Desert in Palm Desert this week will start using nearly \$2 million in economic stimulus funds to train a crop of technicians to maintain large-scale wind and solar energy projects planned for Southern California deserts. A class of 16 will start Monday in an intensive, seven-week program to gain wind-turbine-technician skills. The community college expects to churn out 120 wind-turbine technicians in two years, said Larry McLaughlin, director of the college's Advanced Transportation Technology and Energy Center. Trainees will learn basic electrical, pipefitting and mechanical skills tailored for the emerging alternative energy industries. Instructors will include electrical engineers and people who have worked at solar and wind facilities. (*"Students at Desert College Learning to Work in Green Industry," Press-Enterprise, 10/25/09*)

#### **Saving Teaching Jobs a Priority with Stimulus Funds Allotted for Tulare County:**

Schools in Tulare County are to receive more than \$80.5 million in one-time federal stimulus money, and part of that money they've received so far has gone to avoid laying off hundreds of teachers and other education workers. Reports generated last month by the school districts and other agencies that since May have received all or portions of their allotted education-related stimulus funds indicate that 357 jobs have been preserved or created through Sept. 30 with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act money. Most, 236, are positions filled by teachers or administrators with teaching certificates. (*"Saving Teaching Jobs a Priority with Stimulus Funds Allotted for Tulare County," Visalia Times-Delta, 10/24/09*)

**Calif. gets \$284 Million US Housing Stimulus Funds:** In one of the largest stimulus awards to state housing agencies, the U.S. Treasury announced on Friday \$284 million would go to California, bringing the nationwide total since May to \$3.12 billion. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act passed in February included a payment in lieu of tax credits program for housing. Designed to support states in financing construction or renovation of affordable housing, the program will provide funding to states that apply through 2010. (*"Calif. gets \$284 Million US Housing Stimulus Funds," Reuters, 10/23/09*)

**CSU to Spend \$25M to Add 4,000 Classes:** California State University unveiled a plan Thursday to pump an additional \$25 million into its campuses in order to provide more classes and support services for students. The university says the one-time allocation will add about 4,000 course sections at its campuses, and could potentially retain up to 800 lecturers for the winter/spring term to teach those classes. The money for the additional classes had been designated for payroll. CSU received \$77.5 million in one-time federal stimulus funds, which it will use to help meet its payroll, freeing up other funds from state support and student fees. (*"CSU to Spend \$25M to Add 4,000 Classes," Sacramento Business Journal, 10/23/09*)

#### **Kelseyville Wastewater System among Projects Receiving Stimulus Funds:**

The Kelseyville County Waterworks District and several other agencies in the North Coast region are among the recipients in the latest round of stimulus funding. On Thursday Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger announced that a total of \$717 million in ARRA and state funding has been awarded or approved for loan for 160 water projects throughout California to date – for the purpose of stimulating the California economy, saving and creating jobs and protecting public health and the environment. Projects awarded funding or loans range from Del Norte County in the north to San Diego County and from the Pacific shore to the Nevada state line. The State Water Board approved the first Recovery Act project the same day that it received money from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (*"Kelseyville Wastewater System among Projects Receiving Stimulus Funds," Lake County News, 10/23/09*)

